

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 SY-10 USSS-00 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

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TAGS: ETRN, YO

SUBJ: MORE DETAILS ON ATTEMPTED LJUBLJANA HIJACKING REVE-
ALED

REF. A. BELGRADE 3784

B. BELGRADE 3744

C. BELGRADE 3759

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. RECENT PRESS REPORTS PROVIDE EXTENSIVE
DETAIL ON ABORTIVE LJUBLJANA HIJACKING PLOT AUGUST 20. TARGET
WAS DEFINITELY TRANS INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES DC-10. PLOTTERS
HEAVILY ARMED AND RINGLEADER DRESSED IN MILITIA UNIFORM.
TRIAL EXPECTED IN ONE MONTH. PRESS ECHOES OFFICIAL VIEW THAT
PLOTTERS ADVENTURERS WITH NO POLITICAL TIES. EMBASSY ASSESSES
PLOT AS HAVING HAD EXCELLENT CHANCES FOR SUCCESS
END SUMMARY.

2. ZAGREB WEEKLY VUS AND TANJUG CARRY EXTENSIVE DETAILS
ON ATTEMPTED AUGUST 20 AIRCRAFT HIJACKING ATTEMPT AT LJUBLJANA
AIRPORT. BOTH REPORTS STEM AT LEAST PARTLY FROM KRANJ
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INVESTIGATING JUDGE. VUS ARTICLE ILLUSTRATED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS

OF WEAPONS AND PLANNED ROUTES OF ACCESS TO PLANE.

3. TARGET DEFINITELY ESTABLISHED AS DC-10 CHARTERED BY TRANS INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES (TIA) NOT REPEAT NOT FRANCE INTERNATIONAL AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. RINGLEADER OF THREE - MAN GROUPS (CIRIN) IS CADET IN SLOVENIA MINISTRY OF INTERIOR MILITIA TRAINING SCHOOL. GROUP HEAVILY ARMED WITH FOUR YUGOSLAV ARMY AK-TYPE AUTOMATIC WEAPONS, GAS MASKS, BAYONETS, OVER 600 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION AND LUGER-TYPE PISTOL. ALL OF FOREGOING STOLEN BY CIRIN FROM ARMS DEPOT PREVIOUS EVENING.

4. PLAN WAS FOR CIRIN, DRESSED IN HIS MILITIA UNIFORM, TO GAIN ENTRY TO PILOT CABIN ONCE DC-10 LANDED WITH OTHER TWO CONSPIRATORS TO ENTER PASSENGER COMPARTMENT. CIRIN HAD PREVIOUSLY WORKED AT AIRPORT AND WAS FAMILIAR WITH ITS SECURITY PROCEDURES. REPAIR IN PROGRESS ON AIRPORT BUILDING REPORTEDLY MADE ACCESS EVEN EASIER.

5. PLOTTERS WERE GIVEN AWAY BY ALERT ONLOOKER WHOSE CURIOSITY AROUSED BY THEIR SUSPICIOUS ACTIONS AND HEAVY BAGS CONCEALING WEAPONS. ONE CONSPIRATOR PICKED UP IMMEDIATELY; OTHER TWO INCLUDING CIRIN, WERE ARRESTED SEVEN KILOMETERS AWAY AFTER CHASE INVOLVING HELICOPTER. CIRIN REPORTEDLY FIRED SHOT IN AIR TO FACILITATE ESCAPE FROM AIRPORT AFTER DETECTION.

6. TRIAL IS REPORTEDLY SCHEDULED WITHIN MONTH, FOLLOWING PSYCHIATRIC EXAMINATION OF PARTICIPANTS. PRESS REPORTS ECHO WHAT WE WERE TOLD BY MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OFFICIAL HERE; NAMELY THAT CONSPIRATORS WERE YOUNG ADVENTURERS WITH NO DOMESTIC OR EXTERNAL POLITICAL CONNECTIONS. WHOLE ESCAPE IS TREATED AS UNFORTUNATE BUT POTENTIALLY TRAGIC PRANK. EMBASSY'S EVALUATION IS THEAT DESPITE REPORTED NON-POLITICAL MOTIVATION FOR ATTEMPTED HIJACKING, ABORTIVE CONSPIRACY WAS SERIOUS, WELL MOUNTED EFFORT. GIVEN HEAVY ARMAMENT, CIRIN'S MILITIA UNIFORM AND KNOWLEDGE OF SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AT AIRPORT, PLOT HAD EVERY CHANCE TO SUCCEED.

7. UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF VUS ARTICLE BEING TRANSMITTED VIA AIRGRAM. THREE COPIES OF ORIGINAL ARTICLE WITH ILLUSTRATIONS WILL BE ENCLOSED.
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